



A LIVING EXPERIENCE AT MANZIANA

THRESHOLDS PROGRAMME

The Thresholds program, held at Manziana, ended on Oct. 12. It was for English-speaking Brothers, and began on 11th August.

Twelve Brothers, from eleven different countries, participated. They came from various provinces: Southern Africa, Nigeria, District of West Africa, PACE (Province of Central East Africa), East Asia, South Asia, the District of the Pacific and Australia.

The introduction to the program said:

"Just as a threshold invites us to open doorways and enter a new place this program invites the participant to look to the future with fresh perspectives, seeing from different angles, being mindful and to work at a renewed sense of themselves". The program also aimed: "to make real the call of the General Chapter for, 'A renewed sense of consecration firmly rooted in the Gospel, urging us to new ways of being Brother'" (Letter 21st General Chapter, 2009).

The program revolved around three main areas, all aimed at helping the participants to reflect on the consecrated life of the Religious Brother.

- Community living and the Marist congregation
- Human and spiritual life and growth
- The historical-pastoral area (pilgrimages, visits and time for reflection).

In their final evaluation the Brothers were unanimously positive that they have experienced a well-planned pro-



gram. They also highlight the good that the Thresholds program has opened up for them at this time of their lives.

In regard to community living and the Marist Brothers congregation there were presentations and times of reflection about "Fraternal Dialogue", "Missionary Heart", "Opening Doors", "Personal and Collective leadership," and, a key subject for today, "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church."

One of the participants referring to this block points out: *"All of these inputs were excellent and helped me to discover the richness of the Institute, trying to respond to the current challenges it is facing on the levels of mission, spirituality and communion. I return to my province enriched with everything I have received here. I hope to put all this richness to the service of others."*

In the human and spiritual life area there were sessions on: "Keys to interiority," "Jesus, son of Mary," "Well-be-

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

From Oct. 15 – 16, after the meeting with the General Council, the councillors of the three administrative units of Oceania debated on the topic of new models, with the participation of Brothers João Carlos do Prado and Carlos Alberto Rojas, of the Secretariat of Mission.

From Oct. 16 – 21, Brothers Mario Meuti and Manel Mendoza, directors of FMSI, participated in the meeting of the Marist NGOs of Asia and Oceania in Brisbane, Australia.

From Oct. 19 – 20, Brother Joe McKee, vicar general, will take part in the meeting of the MAPAC's board in Manila, the Philippines.

ing and personal health," "Brothers, the dream of Fourvière" and the workshop "Realities for religious - love and be loved, vulnerability and flexibility."

One of the participants shares on this area: *"Listening to the speakers has helped me to discover my current reality and the moment I am living in both my religious and personal life. I am aware that not everything is easy, but I understand as well that psychological and spiritual tools I have at hand will help me to overcome the difficulties that I'll be facing at this point in my life."*

When we speak of a pastoral-historical area we are referring to the visits, pilgrimages, retreat days, solidarity experience. Here too, the participants underline the richness these experiences brought to them. It is precisely the "ex-

periential character" of these activities that greatly pleased the participants.

We mention here some of these activities: the pilgrimage to L'Hermitage, along with the Escorial group; the experience with refugees in the Capuchin convent of Montefiascone; the pilgrimage of the Holy Year with the "experience of the Holy Door" in St. Peter's; the recollections we have made and the visit to the General House, including the Congregation Archives. Many were the "praises" to these activities.

One Brother writes: *"Since long I have not done a so rich pilgrimage to the Marist places. The living explanation of the first Brothers and the pilgrimage to Le Puy and Taizé have shown me how much I am rooted in a tradition for which I am responsible for today's times. The experi-*

ence of solidarity, the New International Communities and the experience of Taizé are aspects showing me the dynamic character of the charism. I cannot keep it for me alone. It is a charism for the Church and for the world. It is urgent to 'set out': this is also the invitation of the General Chapter and of Pope Francis."

Finally, a few comments from individual brothers that sum up their overall experience of the program:

"An enriching experience". "It has helped me to come back to my first ideals of Marist life, to when I was becoming a brother." "It has challenged and affirmed me in just the right ways. It has allowed me to take time out to renew my life and my relationship with God ... a real gift." "It has suited my needs very well." "Timely as I look ahead to the next stage of my life."

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF TABATINGA: LAVALLA200> PROJECT

The Tabatinga community, in Amazonia, is one of the new international communities of the LaValla200> Project. Members joined mid-September for a new life experience. Brother Iñigo García, of the Ibérica Province, shares his experience:

Walking in these new times, in this new land, with new brothers and sisters, among cross border communities and realities: Tabatinga, Umariazú, Benjamín Constant, Atalaia of the north, Saint Rosa of Peru, Islandia de Peru, Leticia...

Being a Marian face of the Church; fully living our vocations; creating a space so that brothers and laity can share their life, faith and mission; embody a spirit of communion with the land, cultures, expressions of celebration; exercise the ministry of hospitality and of encounter, being a joyful presence among children and youth, and in their respective local communities, in their vulnerable situation... we could say this expresses the dream and commitment of the new international communities of the LaValla200> Project that have begun their path during the month of September in different regions

of the Marist Institute: America Sur, Arco Norte, Asia, Europa and Oceania.

We find ourselves in Tabatinga (Amazonia), in the triple border of Brazil-Colombia-Peru, part of the Marist region America Sur.

Our community is made up of four members, each one of a different nationality: Peggy Vivas of Venezuela, Verónica Rubí of Argentina, Justin Golding of Australia and this author. Three of us have already begun sharing our lives in this triple border, waiting for Justin, who is still dealing with his appropriate documents to be able to reside in Brazil. (...)

On Sept. 18 and 19, the provincial Brother Inácio Etges and the viceprovincial Brother Deivis Ficher of the Brasil Sul-Amazonia Province and the provincial Brother Alberto Aparicio of the Cruz del Sur Province and the coordinator of the America Sur regional council offered us a simple welcoming celebration, expressing their closeness and the support of the whole region in this new venture where together we are making a path and celebrating life in mission.

This is a historic moment of the Institute; it's about "a new beginning" in which Marcellin's dream beats with strength in this beautiful of the world. A shared and accompanied dream!

Time seems to slow down and acquires a new dimension and measure: time for (un)learning and (re)placing one's self. The day, in these early stages, has been oriented to know, to



The provincial superior of Cruz del Sur, Br Alberto Aparicio, with Br Iñigo García, Verónica Rubí and Peggy Vivas

BRIEF NEWS

IBERICA

The coordinators of the educational mission of the Marist provinces of Europe gathered in Paris on October 13 to move forward in the educational action for this new course. The development of education, regionalisation and the advancing of common projects were the main topics of discussion among those in charge of the different provinces.

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

Three brothers celebrated their anniversaries since professing their vows for their Marist religious life: Brothers Roger Alvoet and Félix Genin (75 years of religious life) and Brother Edgard Iserentant (60 years).

AMERICA CENTRAL

On Oct. 8, the America Central province celebrated the national encounter of Conexión Joven, led by a team of youth of the Remar communities in the retreat house Hermitage in San Salvador. Participants included 180 youth from two schools in Chalatenango and Aguilares. The day, dedicated to reflection, was filled with a lot of joy, hope and the wish to deepen God's call to happiness.

BRAZIL

The third Marist encounter of mission and management gathered Brothers and directors of Brazil's three provinces, with the aim of debating the Institute's mission in coherence with good management practices. The encounter took place on Oct. 13 in the city of Olinda, as part of the 5th Marist International Congress of Education.

move, to open the door, to greet and introduce one's self, to participate in the rhythm and encounters of the different local communities.

Throughout September and October, we have been able to participate in actions of visibility and awareness against human trafficking, especially sexual exploitation of children and women; in the training of indigenous communities in their rights and access to public services through the Conselho Indigenista Missionario; in celebration of the vari-

ous no-venas of the festivities of the Holy Angels, St Francis of Assisi and Our Lady of Aparecida.

The faith in its various expressions, congregates, celebrates and makes sense! Each encounter is an opportunity to listen, to recognise the simplicity of life that emerges out in the open and behind the backs of majority societies. (...)

Thankful, and with a mother's heart,
Br Iñigo García

FMSI MEETS WITH A UN REPRESENTATIVE

The Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, received Brother Álvaro Sepúlveda in New York on Oct. 4 to know the points stressed at present in the office which she heads and to repeat the support of FMSI to the struggle against violence.

In her meeting with Br Álvaro, who went as representative of FMSI, Marta underscored a few urgent topics:

- Migrant children and refugees: prevention in the countries of origin, to assure that the conditions of residence or acceptance are coherent with the standards of human rights.
- The Objectives of Sustainable Development (OSD). That the voice of children continues to be present in the implementation and evaluation of the OSD, especially in reference to violence.
- School harassment (bullying), in the framework of the report of the Secretary General of the UNO (2016) on the protection against harassment (bullying).
- Adolescents deprived of liberty.

In turn, Br Álvaro explained to her the work that FMSI is doing with children and adolescents in Latin America, and also regarding the possibility of accompanying the passage of the migrants through Marist presences which



already exist or are being created (La Valla 200). For example, from Central America, passing through Mexico and arriving up to USA (East Harlem) or from Syria to Sicily.

The meeting was very profitable for FMSI, to perceive the strength that the theme of migrants and refugees has today in the United Nations and, at the same time, the state of invisibility in which children continue to be today.

It is very probable that within the next months, different actions will be carried out for the prevention and eradication of violence against migrant and refugee children. These will be opportunities for FMSI to be present and have influence, especially, to guarantee the right to education of migrant children. Br Alvaro

MARIST WORLD



Philippines: MAPAC Graduation Group



Australia: Extended General Council of Oceania - Mittagong



Brazil: 5th International Marist Congress on Education



France: Meeting of superiors of the Province Méditerranéenne in l'Hermitage



50 years of religious life: Brothers Giorgio, Agapito, Paco & José Antonio (Méditerranéenne)



Nigeria: Community leaders, workshop on "Basic communication skills"

is member of the team of the Foundation, and is profiting of his stay in the United States because of professional formation, in order to develop relationships with representatives of

institutions of the United Nations and identify the occasions in which FMSI can be present by its action of exercising influence.

BRAZIL: NEARLY 2,000 OBJECTS & 24,000 PHOTOGRAPHS IN CHAMPAGNAT MEMORIAL

A memorial dedicated to Saint Marcellin Champagnat in Viamão, Brazil, has now around 1,800 objects and 24,000 photographs - a number that continues to change due to donations.

With the help of the Museum of Science and Technology of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, the Brasil Sul-Amazônia Province helped identify and number the memorial's objects as part of an updating process, which began in April 2015.

"We still have to continue to build a mentality that appreciates histor-



ical assets in society at large," stated Brother Jean Arcari, coordinator of the process and historian.

"This is one of our commitments because of the importance of Catholicism in the history of our country and in our state," he added.

A museologist that makes up of the team in charge of updating the memorial, Gabriela Carmo, revealed that the museum includes several teaching resources the Brothers used throughout history such as slates, ink cartridges, pens, overhead projectors and microscopes.

Other objects worth mentioning include drawings that the Brothers used to teach – one of them in the old Marist school Colégio Marista São Francisco, in Vacaria in the 1940s and 1950s and had been made in Paris.

The paintings were teaching tools of the second half of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century.

The memorial, which includes the Center for Marist Heritage and Spirituality, was created 18 years ago, an idea of Brother Armando Luiz Bortolini.

HOW TO HELP THE AFFECTED POPULATION

EMERGENCY HAITI

Several Marist entities are fundraising after hurricane Matthew hit Haiti causing several victims and great damages.

These damages happened mostly in the southern part of the island, the country's poorest area where the Marist Brothers are present.

The money that will be raised will go to the most urgent necessities of the affected population.

You can help the people of Haiti by sending resources to:

- **FMSI - Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus**

Online donations, through <http://www.fmsi-onlus.org/>
Bank transfer under the name: Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale Onlus
Piazzale Champagnat, 2 - 00144 Roma – Italia
Account number: 100000125288
Banca Prossima - Filiale Piazza Paolo Ferrari 10 –20121 Milano Italia
IBAN: IT70M0335901600100000125288
BIC: BCITITMX

- **SED - Marists Spain** - <http://www.sed-ongd.org>
"Emergenza Haiti"
IBAN: 0075 0125 45 0600820091
Collaborate online: <https://goo.gl/2zF9ea>.



You can help the people of Haiti by sending resources to **FMSI and SED**



CRUZ DEL SUR PROVINCE NOW INCLUDES PARAGUAY DISTRICT

After Paraguay ceased to canonically exist as a district, the Marists of Paraguay joined Argentina and Uruguay to form part of the Cruz del Sur province on Aug. 30.

On Oct. 1, the Marists gathered to celebrate this historical event in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay. Under the theme 'Welcome at our home,' in the Guarani language, the Guarani Brothers received a delegation of 24 people that travelled there to enjoy the space.

The contingent counted with Uruguayans and Argentinians, including directors, brothers, references of areas of provincial animation and members of fraternities.

Participants shared a day of working and reflecting, although in reality the reason they were summed was for "the encounter and the need to dream together," this new beginning of the Marist Province. The event stressed the fact that each one can dream of his own realities, necessities, paths and that each country can walk towards a new dawn and a new beginning. Participants enjoyed this and prayed a lot for it during the encounter.



The regional team of Paraguay, within the governance structure and the organisation of the Cruz del Sur province, did a presentation. The Paraguayans received visitors with their music, interpreted by students and former students as well as folklore groups of the area; their typical dances with colourful costumes, joyful adorned each corner of the living room where the day had been shared.

MARIST MISSIONARY SISTERS: FORMER SUPERIOR GENERAL PASSES AWAY

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She had taken on the qualities of the Marist spirit that are so necessary in today's world: simplicity, joy, faithfulness, listening with an open heart, gratitude ...love.

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The superior general of the Marist Missionary Sisters, Sister Georgeanne Donovan, has announced the death of sister Patricia Stowers, former superior general.

Sister Patricia, who served as superior general from 1987 to 2001, passed away Oct. 12 in Ste-Foy les Lyon, France, after suffering from an illness for a long time.

In a statement, Sr Georgeanne stressed the qualities of Sr Patricia noting that "she gave herself generously in all her mission destinations and what was asked of her, showing she had taken on the qualities of the Marist spirit that are so necessary in today's world: simplicity, joy, faithfulness, listening with an open heart, gratitude... love."



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